

## DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY.

Edited by FRED I. LACKENBACH.

(Devoted to the advancement of Pharmacy and its allied branches; to the work of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association, and to matters of interest bearing upon the therapeutic agents offered to the medical profession. The editor will gladly supply available information on matters coming within the scope of this Department.)

Tabellae Dulces Aristochin (Western), 1 gr.—Each tablet contains aristochin 1 grain with cocoa, sugar and saccharine as vehicles.

Tabellae Dulces Heroin 1/100 gr.—Each tablet contains heroin 1/100 gr. with cocoa, sugar and saccharine as vehicles.

Tabellae Dulces Novaspirin (Western), ¼ gr.—Each tablet contains novaspirin ¼ grain with sugar, starch, liquid petrolatum, saccharine, curcuma and oil of lemon as vehicles.

Tabellae Dulces Tannalbin (Western), 1 gr.—Each tablet contains tannalbin 1 grain with cocoa, sugar and saccharine as vehicles.

Tabellae Dulces Terpin Hydrate with Heroin (Western), 1/100 gr.—Each tablet contains terpin hydrate ½ grain, and heroin 1/100 grain, with cocoa, sugar and saccharine as vehicles. Western Chemical Company, Hutchinson, Minn. Accepted for the Appendix to New and Nonofficial Remedies (Jour. A. M. A., Feb. 10, 1917, p. 461).

### ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Novocain Decision.—The United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in an unanimous opinion has confirmed the decision of Judge Grubb of the United States District Court, holding that Novocain and such other preparations as Anesthesin, Orthoform, Holocain, etc., do not come under the Harrison Anti-Narcotic Act, and therefore physicians, dentists, druggists and wholesalers prescribing, using or selling them can do so without registering or using the Harrison narcotic blank in ordering them. This would seem to sustain the contention that Novocain is not a habit-forming anesthetic and in no way related to Cocain or the other products included under the Harrison Act.

Emetine in Dysentery and Pyorrhea.—Emetine is accepted to-day as an almost ideal specific against amebic dysentery. Experience indicates that by its use abscess of the liver can be prevented and even cured. When a differential diagnosis between amebic and bacillary dysentery cannot be made, emetine may be of diagnostic value because improvement follows from its use if the case be amebic. In neglected cases and some other forms of the disease the emetine treatment may fail of complete success. As a direct cure for pyorrhea emetine seems to have failed, not because it does not act on the ameba which are found in the pyorrheal pockets but because pyorrhea is not caused by ameba (Jour. A. M. A., Feb. 3, 1917, p. 374).

The Phenolsulphonephthalein Test.—It has been assumed that excretion of less than 60 to 80 per cent. of phenolsulphonephthalein in two hours is an indication of renal insufficiency. It has been found, however, that in certain experimental conditions, phenolsulphonephthalein may be destroyed in the body and therefore not appear in the urine although the kidneys function normally. If this condition is found to occur in clinical cases the interpretation of the tests may have to be limited to this: an excretion of 60 to 80 per cent., i. e., a positive result, within two hours after the injection of the phenolsulphonephthalein is evidence of satisfactory renal activity (Jour. A. M. A., Feb. 3, 1917, p. 379).

Glycerophosphate Comp. Ampules, 1 c. c., Squibb.—The Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry

refused recognition to Glycerophosphate Comp. Ampules, 1 c. c., Squibb, each said to contain sodium glycerophosphate 0.1 gm., strychnin cacodylate 0.0005 gm., and iron cacodylate 0.01 gm., because the name did not indicate the potent ingredients and because the administration of a mixture of sodium glycerophosphate, strychnin cacodylate and iron cacodylate is irrational. In recognition of the Council's conclusion, Squibb and Sons state that the sale of the ampules has been discontinued. This co-operation in the work of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry is gratifying (Jour. A. M. A., Feb. 3, 1917, p. 388).

Fate of Trypsin in the Stomach.—Judging by recent experiments, it appears that the proteolytic enzyme of the pancreas isolated as trypsin is capable of withstanding a rather long digestion in presence of hydrochloric acid and pepsin, provided that sufficient protein is present to combine with all or a part of the acid and so bring the free acid down to a certain level. From the observations it seems possible that some tryptic digestion may occur within the stomach when the free acid is low from combination with protein. The results do not, however, even remotely suggest that the administration of a few grains of the various commercial products claimed to contain trypsin or pancreatin would have the slightest therapeutic significance (Jour. A. M. A., Feb. 17, 1917, p. 554).

### ORGANIZATION OF THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS, U. S. ARMY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

It has been suggested by the Association of Military Surgeons that the Medical Reserve Corps in California organize a state association. Its meeting to take place at the same time as the California State Medical Society, at Coronado, California, April 17th, to 19th, 1917. Its purposes will be to foster patriotism and preparedness for war service among medical men, to strive for the best interest of the corps, to elect delegates to the national association which will meet annually at the time and place of meeting of the American Medical Association. Notice of exact date and time of meeting will be mailed to individual members of the Corps.

W. S. JOHNSON, M.D., Chairman,  
Section on Medical Preparedness San Francisco  
County Medical Society

### EXAMINATION BY NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

The second examination to be given by the National Board of Medical Examiners will be held in Washington, D. C., June 13, 1917. The examination will last about one week.

The following states will recognize the certificate of the National Board: Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, New Hampshire, North Dakota and Pennsylvania. Favorable legislation is now pending in twelve of the remaining states.

A successful applicant may enter the Reserve Corps of either the Army or Navy without further professional examination, if their examination papers are satisfactory to a Board of Examiners of these services.

The certificate of the National Board will be accepted as qualification for admittance into the Graduate School of the University of Minnesota, including the Mayo Foundation.

Application blanks and further information may be obtained from the Secretary, Dr. J. S. Rodman, 2106 Walnut street, Philadelphia.